

REMARKS

The Examiner contends that the application contains claims to the following distinct species:

- I. Composite material
 - (1) as set forth in claim 1; and
 - (2) as set forth in claim 2.
- II. First layer
 - (1) as set forth in claims 3 or 7; and
 - (2) as set forth in claims 4 or 8.
- III. Second layer
 - (1) as set forth in claim 5; and
 - (2) as set forth in claim 6.
- IV. Additive
 - (1) as set forth in claim 9;
 - (2) as set forth in claim 10;
 - (3) as set forth in claim 11;
 - (4) as set forth in claim 12;
 - (5) as set forth in claim 13;
 - (6) as set forth in claim 14; and
 - (7) as set forth in claim 15.
- V. Metallic component
 - (1) elect aluminum or stainless steel, as set forth in claim 16 and 17.

The Examiner has required that Applicants elect a single disclosed species from each species category I-V for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner has deemed claims 18-20 to be generic.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants assert that the Examiner's species election requirement is improper. Claim 1 is generic to all the claims. Claims 2-20 include additional limitations not found in claim 1. However, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect the following species:


1. From category I, Applicants elect the composite material as set forth in claim 1. All claims are readable on this species.
 2. From category II, Applicants elect the first layer as set forth in claims 3 or 7.
 3. From category III, Applicants elect the second layer as set forth in claim 6.
- Applicants note that neither claims 5 nor 6 are dependent on claim 1. However, Applicants assert that claim 1 is generic to all the claims and accordingly encompasses this species.
4. From category IV, Applicants elect the additive as set forth in claim 13.
 5. From category V, Applicants elect aluminum foil as set forth in claims 16 and 17.

As noted above, all the claims are readable on the elected species.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorneys may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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